

May 7, 2013


To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing this in response to a clear need to empower guardians in the state of Michigan. As an employee of Gentiva Hospice, I have the privilege of witnessing what advocates these men and women strive to be for the people they serve. Conversely, I observed their struggles when inhibited from making informed, health care decisions for their clients.

As a hospice provider, our ultimate goal is to provide quality of life from a physical, emotional, social and spiritual perspective to those we serve. After witnessing the tireless efforts of guardians throughout the state of Michigan, it's evident that guardians also share this calling. It is in these sensitive times, facing chronic illness and, ultimately, the end of life, that guardians play the critical role of accessing care for those who would otherwise go without. Their knowledge, experience, and compassion shine through when forced to make a difficult decision, and it is not a choice made lightly. In my experience, these guardians explore every option, stay informed on the medical changes of their clients, and, when they do reach a decision, have invested a great deal of time and effort.

A guardian who follows someone through health decline, finds them a home with clinical and social support, and responds to their clients' changing needs has earned the responsibility to make informed end of life decisions. Without them, countless people have no advocate when facing the fear of potential pain and suffering. My appreciation and respect for Michigan guardians compels me to testify to their credibility, and hopefully, sanctioned ability to care for those on their services.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Emily Prachaseri".

Emily Prachaseri
Hospice Specialist
Gentiva Hospice